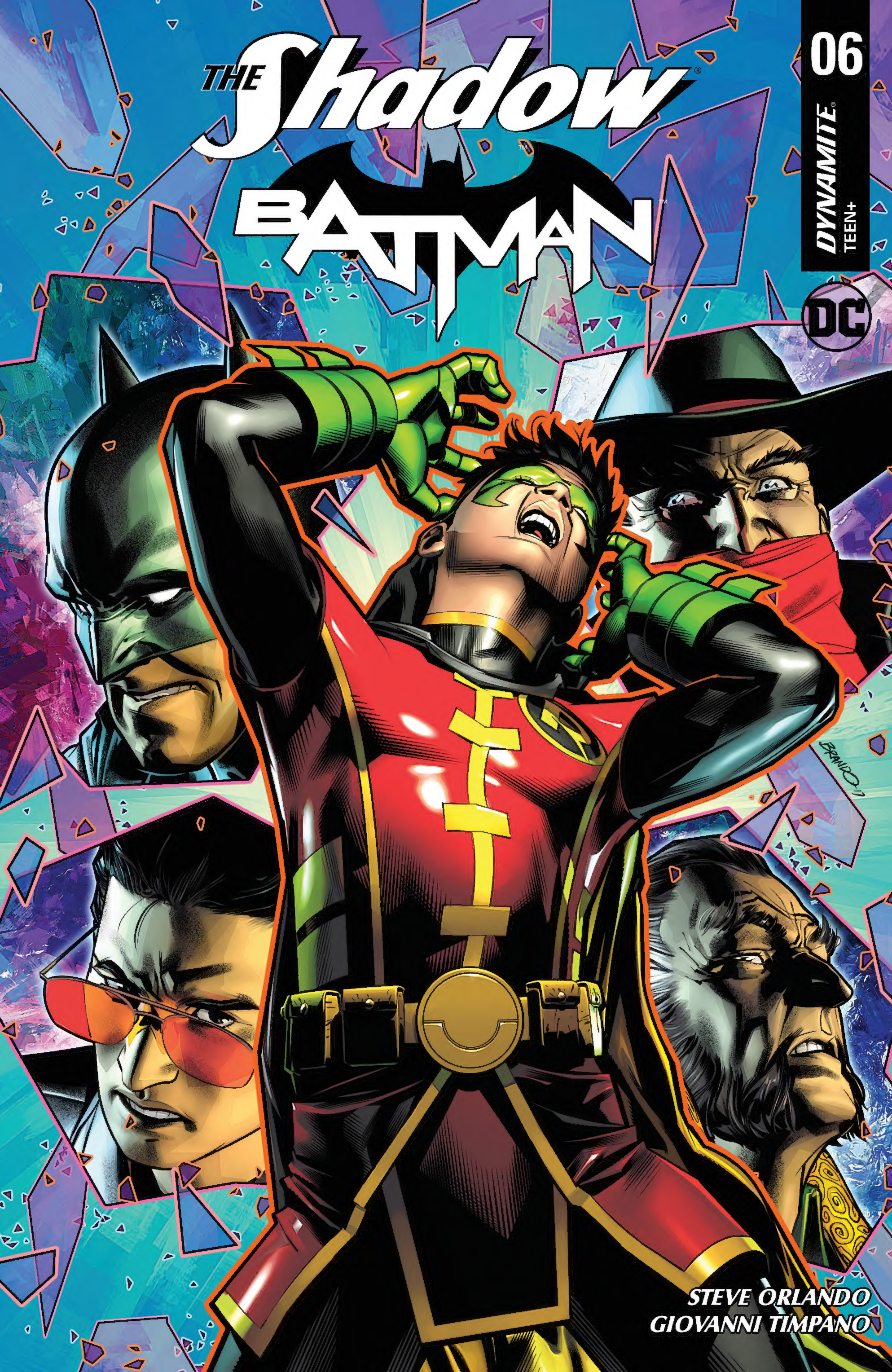


THE *Shadow* BATMAN

06

DYNAMITE[®]
TEEN+



STEVE ORLANDO
GIOVANNI TIMPANO

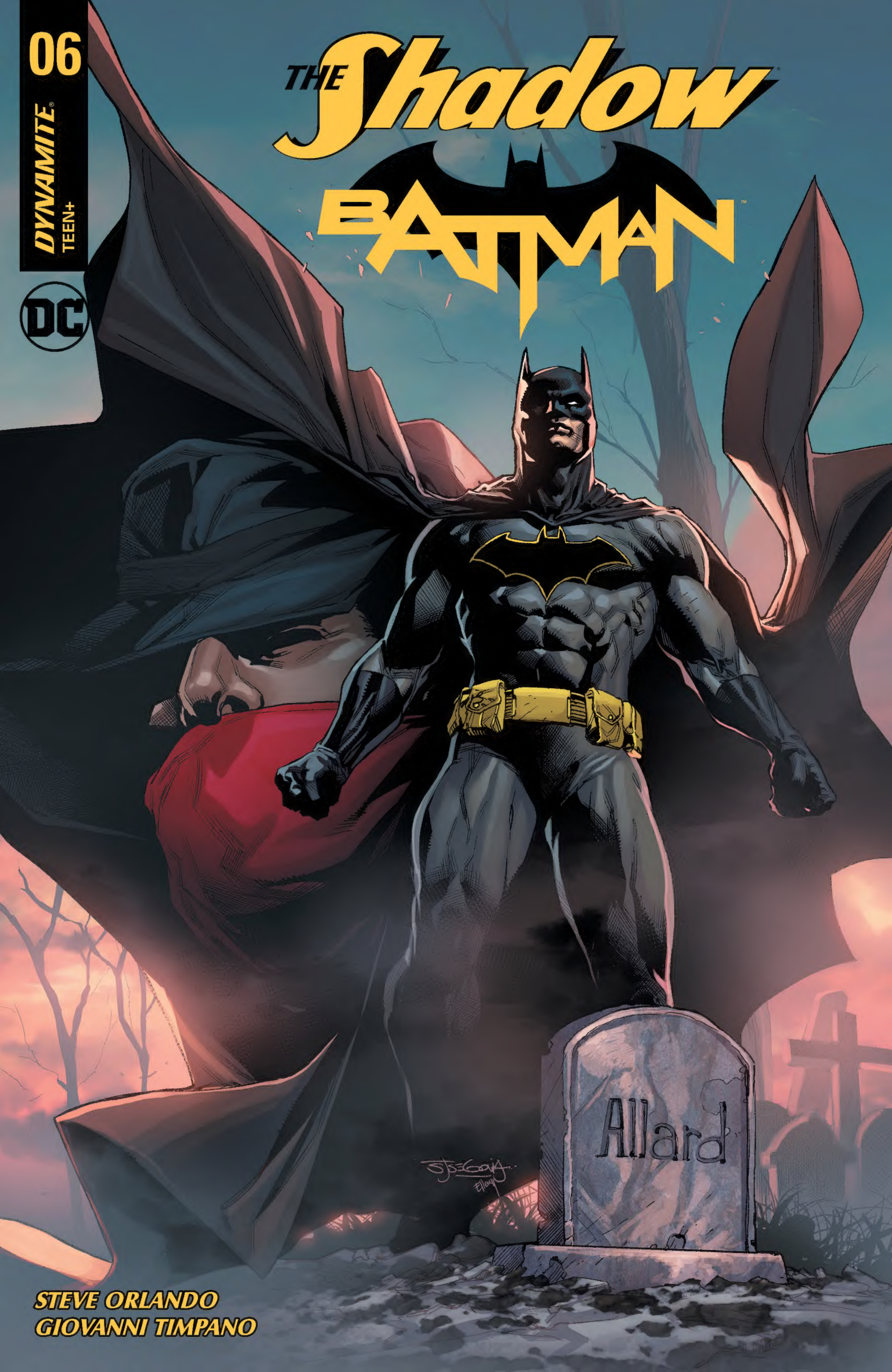
06

DYNAMITE[®]

TEEN+



THE *Shadow* BATMAN



STEVE ORLANDO
GIOVANNI TIMPANO

06

DYNAMITE[®]

TEEN+



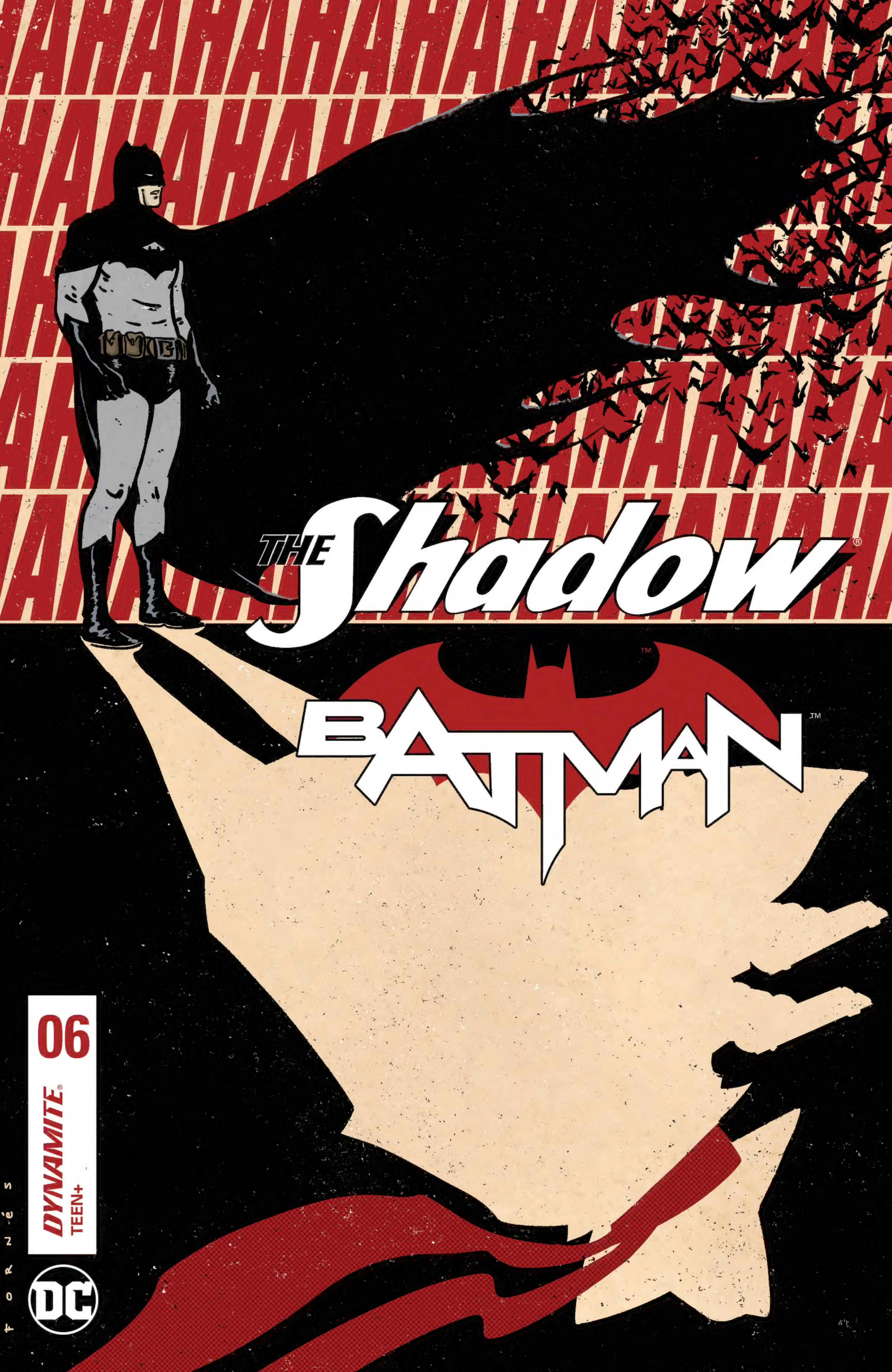
THE *Shadow*[®]

BATMAN[™]



RAFFIENCO

STEVE ORLANDO
GIOVANNI TIMPANO



THE **Shadow**

BATMAN

06

DYNAMITE®

TEEN+



06
DYNAMITE
TEEN+



THE *Shadow* BATMAN



STEVE ORLANDO
GIOVANNI TIMPANO



TM

WRITER **STEVE ORLANDO**
ARTIST **GIOVANNI TIMPANO**
COLORIST **FLAVIO DISPENZA**
LETTERER **TAYLOR ESPOSITO**
ASSISTANT EDITOR **KEVIN KETNER**
EDITOR **MATT IDELSON**
COVER A BY **BRANDON PETERSON**
COVER B BY **STEPHEN SEGOVIA** AND **ELMER SANTOS**
COVER C BY **RAFFAELE IENCO**
COVER D BY **JORGE FORNÉS**
COVER E BY **GIOVANNI TIMPANO** AND **FLAVIO DISPENZA**
SEE LAST TWO PAGES FOR ALL VARIANT COVERS

BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**
SPECIAL THANKS AT **DC** TO
MICHAEL McCALISTER, JIM CHADWICK, MARK CHIARELLO
SPECIAL THANKS AT **CONDÉ NAST** TO **NEIL McGINNESS**



Online at www.DYNAMITE.com | On Facebook [/Dynamitecomics](https://www.facebook.com/Dynamitecomics)
On Instagram [/Dynamitecomics](https://www.instagram.com/dynamitecomics) | On Tumblr [dynamitecomics.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/dynamitecomics)
On Twitter [@dynamitecomics](https://twitter.com/dynamitecomics) | On YouTube [/Dynamitecomics](https://www.youtube.com/Dynamitecomics)

THE SHADOW®/ BATMAN™: VOLUME 1, #6. Dynamite Entertainment, 113 Gaither Dr., STE 205, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. © 2018 Advance Magazine Publishers Inc. d/b/a Conde Nast and DC Comics. The Shadow ® & © 2018 Advance Magazine Publishers Inc. d/b/a Conde Nast. All Rights Reserved. DC LOGO, BATMAN and all related characters and elements © & ™ DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. Dynamite, Dynamite Entertainment and its logo are ® & © 2018 Dynamite. All rights reserved. All art pending licensor approval. All names, characters, events, and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. No portion of this book may be reproduced by any means (digital or print) without the written permission of Dynamite Entertainment except for review purposes.
Printed in Canada.

For information regarding press, media rights, foreign rights, licensing, promotions, and advertising e-mail: marketing@dynamite.com

DYNAMITE®

Nick Barrucci, CEO / Publisher
Juan Collado, President / COO

Joe Rybandt, Executive Editor
Matt Idelson, Senior Editor
Anthony Marques, Associate Editor
Kevin Ketner, Assistant Editor

Jason Ullmeyer, Art Director
Geoff Harkins, Senior Graphic Designer
Cathleen Heard, Graphic Designer
Alexis Persson, Graphic Designer
Chris Caniano, Digital Associate
Rachel Kilbury, Digital Multimedia Associate

Brandon Dante Primavera, V.P. of IT and Operations
Rich Young, Director of Business Development

Alan Payne, V.P. of Sales and Marketing
Janie Mackenzie, Marketing Coordinator
Pat O'Connell, Sales Manager



Bob Harras, Senior VP – Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics
Pat McCallum, Executive Editor, DC Comics

Diane Nelson, President
Dan DiDio, Publisher
Jim Lee, Publisher
Geoff Johns, President & Chief Creative Officer
Amit Desai, Executive VP – Business & Marketing Strategy, Direct to Consumer & Global Franchise Management
Sam Ades, Senior VP & General Manager – Digital Services
Bobbie Chase, VP & Executive Editor, Young Reader & Talent Development
Mark Chiarello, Senior VP – Art, Design & Collected Editions
John Cunningham, Senior VP – Sales & Trade Marketing
Anne DePies, Senior VP – Business Strategy, Finance & Administration
Don Falletti, VP – Manufacturing Operations
Lawrence Ganem, VP – Editorial Administration & Talent Relations
Alison Gill, Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations
Hank Kanalz, Senior VP – Editorial Strategy & Administration
Jay Kogan, VP – Legal Affairs
Jack Mahan, VP – Business Affairs
Nick J. Napolitano, VP – Manufacturing Administration
Eddie Scannell, VP – Consumer Marketing
Courtney Simmons, Senior VP – Publicity & Communications
Jim (Ski) Sokolowski, VP – Comic Book Specialty Sales & Trade Marketing
Nancy Spears, VP – Mass, Book, Digital Sales & Trade Marketing
Michele R. Wells, VP – Content Strategy

Online at www.dccomics.com | On Facebook [/dccomics](https://www.facebook.com/dccomics)
On Instagram [/dccomics](https://www.instagram.com/dccomics) | On Tumblr [dccomicsrule.tumblr.com](https://www.tumblr.com/dccomicsrule)
On Twitter [@DCComics](https://twitter.com/DCComics) | On YouTube [/DCEntertainmentTV](https://www.youtube.com/DCEntertainmentTV)

OFF THE MAP.

STOP,
ROBIN!

HE CAN
HEAR YOU,
BATMAN. BUT
WE HOLD HIS
STRINGS.

WHEN
YOU **FIRST**
UNCOVERED US,
THE SILENT SEVEN
SENT A KILLER IN
BATMAN'S CLOTHING
TO MURDER
ROBIN...

NOW YOU
BREACH OUR
INNER CIRCLE TO
FIND THE **TRUE**
ROBIN WAITING TO
CUT OUT YOUR
HEART.

YOUR
CONTROL
OVER ROBIN
DEPENDS
ON **KHAN,**
RA'S.

AND HOW
LONG CAN
HE LAST,
HERE AND
NOW...

FOR
NOW.





"...AGAINST THE SHADOW?"

KHAN.

YING-KO.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU *FINALLY* DIPPED YOUR TOE INTO THE WORLD I MASTERED DECADES AGO, ON THE STREETS OF SHAMBA-LA.

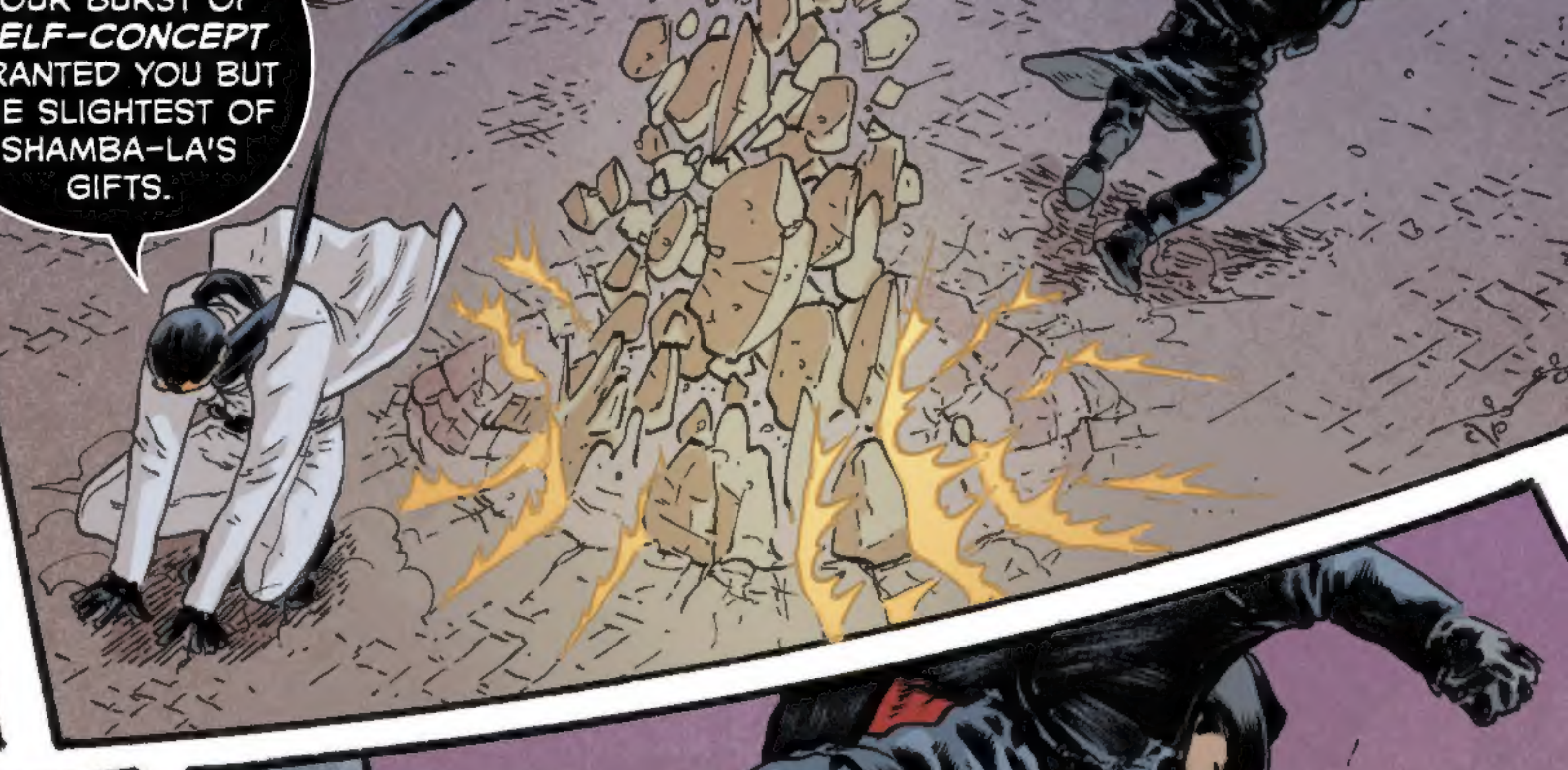
WELCOME TO HIGHER THAUMIC COMBAT. *WELCOME...TO THE ARENA OF MY MIND.*



IT WILL BE YOUR ABATTOIR!



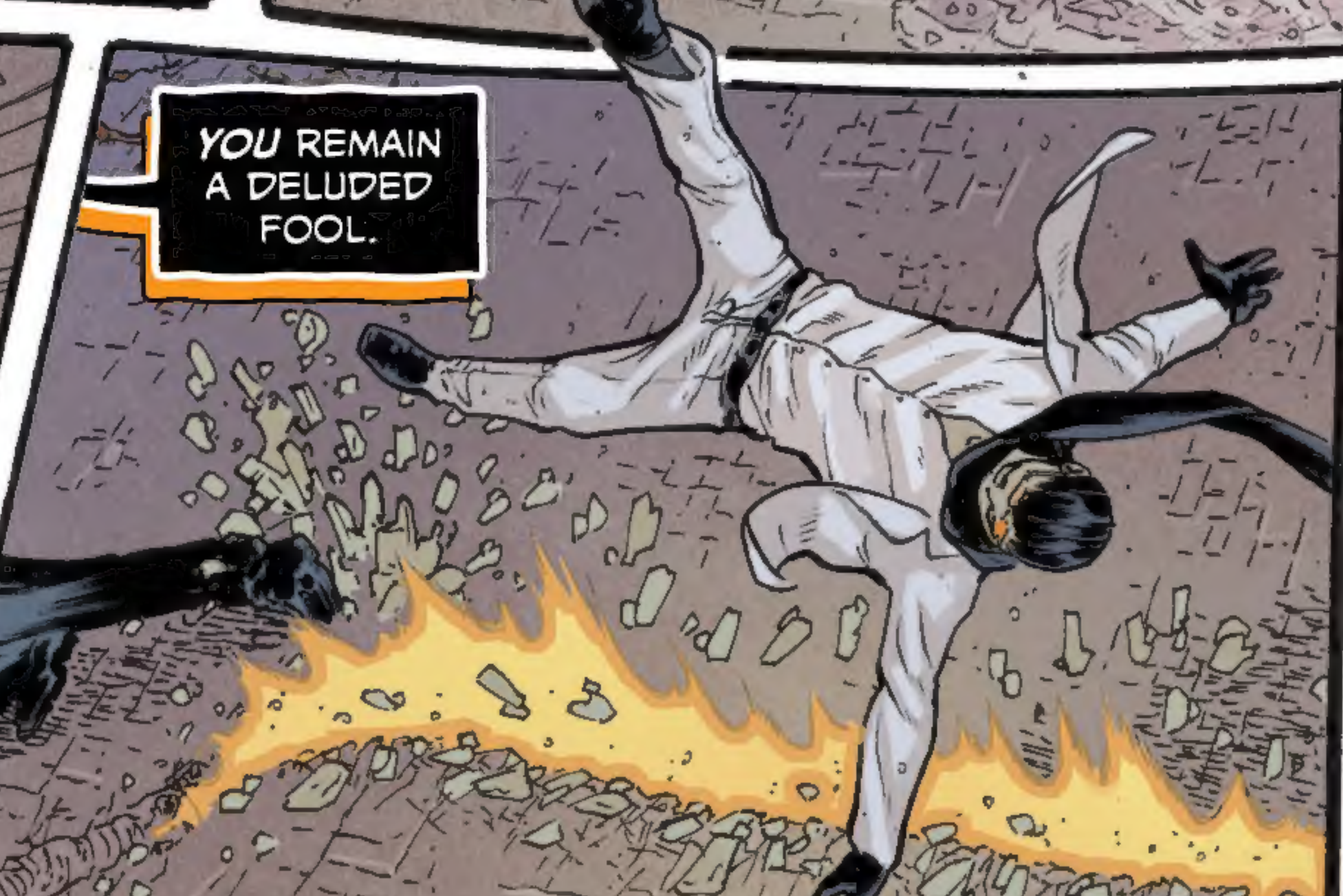
I THINK NOT.



YOUR BURST OF *SELF-CONCEPT* GRANTED YOU BUT THE SLIGHTEST OF SHAMBA-LA'S GIFTS.



IN THE *SACRED SKILLS OF THOUGHT*, YOU REMAIN A PARROT SPOUTING SHAKESPEARE.



YOU REMAIN A DELUDED FOOL.



DELUDED? I HAVE ALWAYS HELD *THIS WORLD*, AND *OUR WAR* WHERE IT BELONGS: *BENEATH ME.*



CLARITY OF VISION HAS BROUGHT ME HERE--
--VISION YOU YOURSELF SEEK.



YOUR LACK OF *SELF DILUTES* YOU. TO KILL ME WOULD BE TO DOOM YOURSELF, YING-KO.



YOUR *MASTERS* ARE GONE. THERE IS *NO ONE* THAT REMEMBERS THE MAN YOU WERE.



THERE IS NO ONE THAT KNOWS THAT WHICH YOU WANT SO DESPERATELY. *THAT* WHICH HOLDS YOU BACK...



...NO ONE BUT ME!



ARE YOU SO SURE?



I AM
AS I HAVE
ALWAYS
BEEN!

CHOOM



SURE
OF MY
CLAIM!



NO!

I
KNOW THAT
WHICH IS MY
RIGHT.

BUT YOU?
WHY DO YOU
EVEN FIGHT?
TO PUNISH
EVIL?

YOU
FOLLOW THE
ORDERS OF LOST
MASTERS. YOU WILL
NEVER GAIN THE
TEACHERS' APPROVAL.



YOUR WAR
AGAINST ME IS
VESTIGIAL. YOU
DO NOT WISH TO
WIN...NOT TRULY.
YOU NEVER
HAVE.

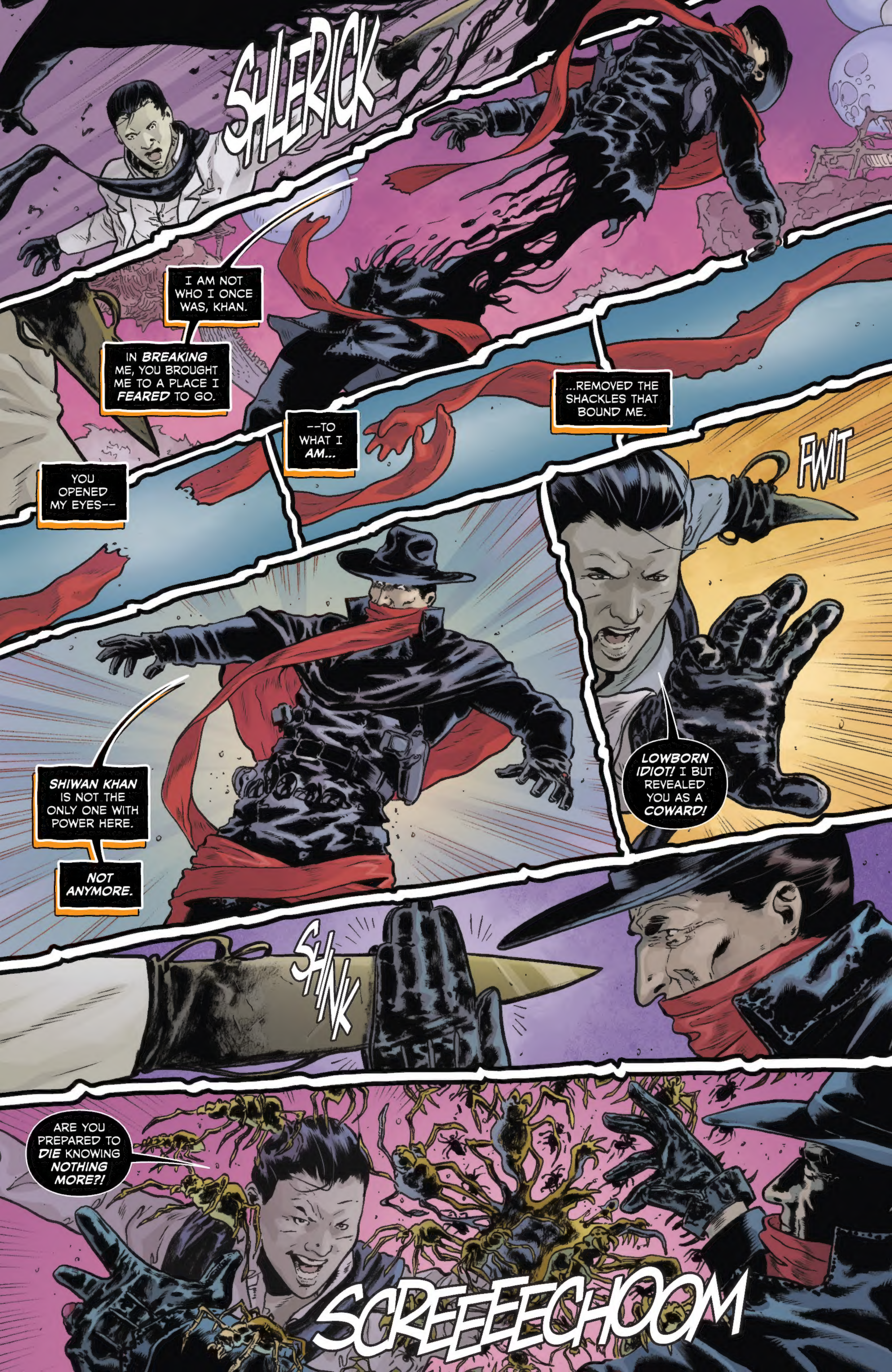
BECAUSE
ONLY I CAN TELL
YOU WHO YOU ARE.
SURRENDER,
YING-KO...



...ONLY
I KNOW.



SURRENDER,
FILTH?



SHULK

I AM NOT WHO I ONCE WAS, KHAN.

IN *BREAKING* ME, YOU BROUGHT ME TO A PLACE I *FEARED* TO GO.

--TO WHAT I AM...

...REMOVED THE SHACKLES THAT BOUND ME.

YOU OPENED MY EYES--

FWIT

SHIWAN KHAN IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH POWER HERE.

LOWBORN IDIOT! I BUT REVEALED YOU AS A COWARD!

NOT ANYMORE.

SHNK

ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE KNOWING NOTHING MORE?!

SCREEEECHOOOM

WAYNE ENTERPRISES.

GOTHAM CITY.

MISTER
FOX?

I SEE IT
TOO, JORDAN--AN
UNNATURAL SURGE
IN MAXWELL-GRANT
INVESTMENT,
WORLDWIDE.

AND THEN
EVERYTHING...
INTERNATIONAL
TRADE, COMMERCE,
THE GLOBAL
MARKETS JUST...
STOPPED.

"LIKE THEY'RE
HOLDING THEIR
BREATH."

SLEEK

YOU
FIGHT TO **END**
THIS WORLD,
DETECTIVE.

IF THE
SILENT SEVEN
FALLS, GLOBAL
SYSTEMS WILL FAIL.
INFRASTRUCTURE
WILL COLLAPSE.
ALREADY, IT SEIZES
FROM OUR
DISTRACTION.

WE ARE
SILENT AS THE
HEARTBEAT IN
YOUR CHEST
SEEMS TO
YOU.

SHRI

THIS
WORLD
WILL **DIE**
WITHOUT
US.

...WE'LL
SEE.

THE
THAUMIC
PLANE.

**NO, KHAN! I
CANNOT DIE, NOT
HERE! DO NOT--**

I DO
NOT...WANT
TO...

YOU
MORE THAN
HAD YOUR
CHANCE,
YING-KO.

EVEN WITH
YOUR *HINT* OF
ENLIGHTENMENT,
THE WATER TO YOUR
EMACIATED SOUL *I*
MYSELF ALLOWED
YOU...YOU
KNEW.

YOU
COULD
NEVER BE
STRONG
ENOUGH.

YOU
WERE ALWAYS
GOING TO DIE
HERE.

HOW
COULD YOU
POSSIBLY HOPE
TO DEFEAT ME
IN MY OWN
MIND?

SADLY,
KHAN.

WE
ARE...

NOT
IN...

YOUR
MIND.

NO--NO!
IMPOSSIBLE!

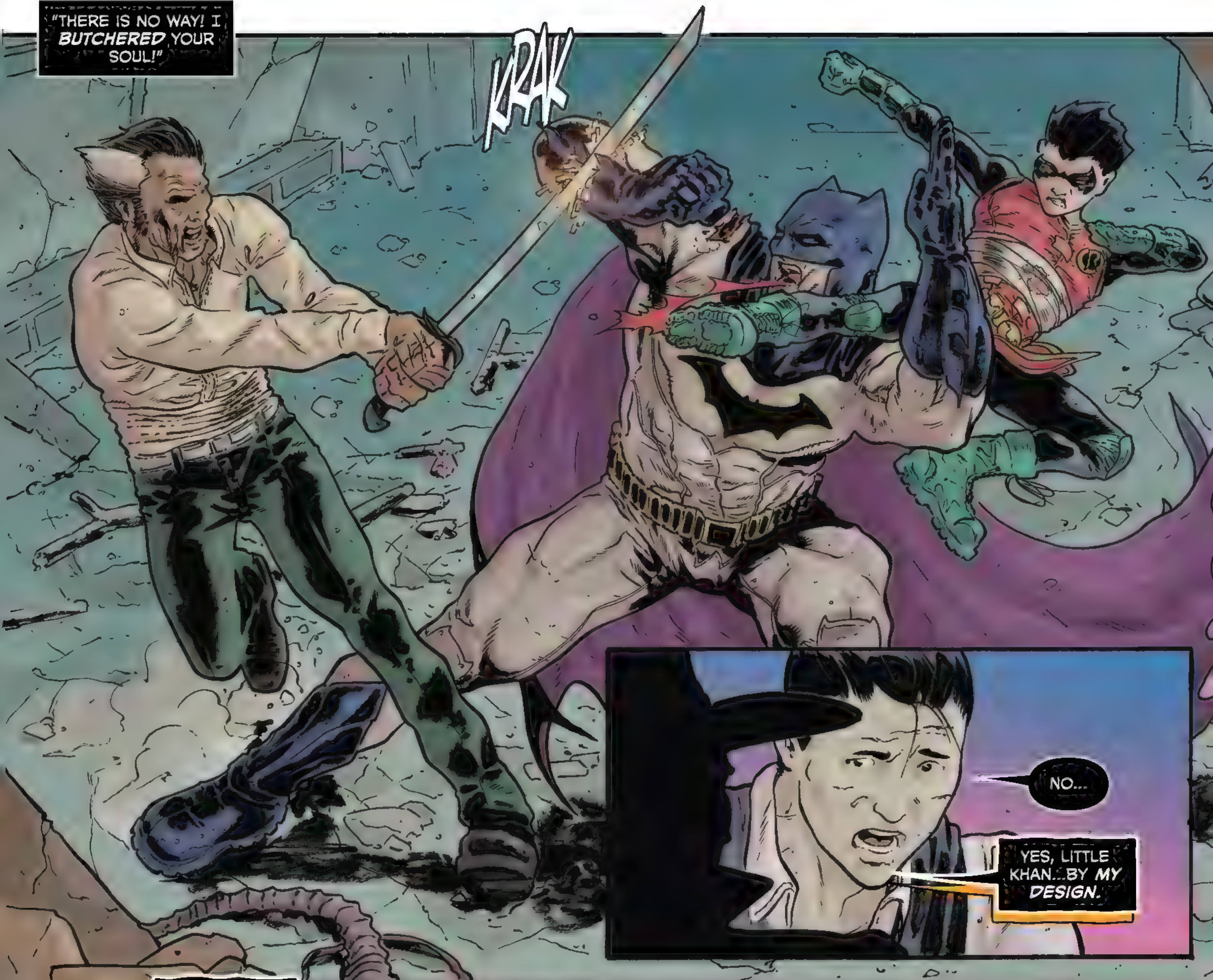
WE...

SNAP

...ARE IN THE
SHADOW'S.

"THERE IS NO WAY! I
BUTCHERED YOUR
SOUL!"

KRAK



NO...

YES, LITTLE
KHAN... BY MY
DESIGN.

I SAW THIS
MISSION AS A
CURSE FOR
THE MAN THAT
BECAME THE
SHADOW.

YOUR **CRUCIBLE**
FORCED ME TO LOOK
WHERE I HAVE ALWAYS
FEARED: **WITHIN.**

YOU HAVE BEEN **RIGHT**
SINCE SHAMBA-LA. I
SHOULD NOT HAVE RUN
FROM WHO I **WAS**. OR
WHAT THE **SHADOW** IS.

AT LAST... I'VE
STOPPED. THE
SHADOW KNOWS
WHAT HE IS.

NO...
NO... I... I
DEFEATED
YOU...

HE IS NOT A
PUNISHMENT. NOR
A **CURSE**. HE IS A
CHALLENGE...



CRASH

...AND THE
SHADOW
ACCEPTS!



SLICE

I WAGE AN IMMORTAL BATTLE TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ITSELF. YOU HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED THAT, DETECTIVE!

YOU ARE UNWORTHY OF ME!

DAMIAN! YOU CAN HEAR ME. YOU KNOW THIS IS WRONG.

YOU...YOU'VE BEEN MANIPULATED FOR SO LONG. RA'S, YOUR MOTHER...EVEN ME, BUT YOU'VE NEVER LET ANYONE MAKE YOU INTO SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT TO BE...

DON'T LET KHAN DO IT NOW.

WHA-- WHAT? IT FELT LIKE SLEEPWALKING. COULDN'T STOP...

AM I BACK IN CONTROL?

DAMIAN WAYNE.

AWAKE.



NO,
BOY! I
AM!



...DAMN YOUR
WEAKNESS, KHAN.
THIS IS MY **THANKS**
FOR WORKING WITH
CHILDREN.

WE **ROUTED**
HUMANITY TO A
CONTROLLED
POPULATION!



"THEIR **DESTRUCTION**
OF THIS WORLD, OF
THEMSELVES, WAS
STEMMED!"

"ALL BUT FOR
YOUR **PETTY**
GRUDGES!"



YOU **FOOLS**
ARE ONLY HERE
BECAUSE OF HIM!
BECAUSE A **YOUNG**
MAN WHO THOUGHT
HIMSELF **OLD**
COULDN'T FORGET
YOU, SHADOW!

I
PROTECT
THIS
WORLD!



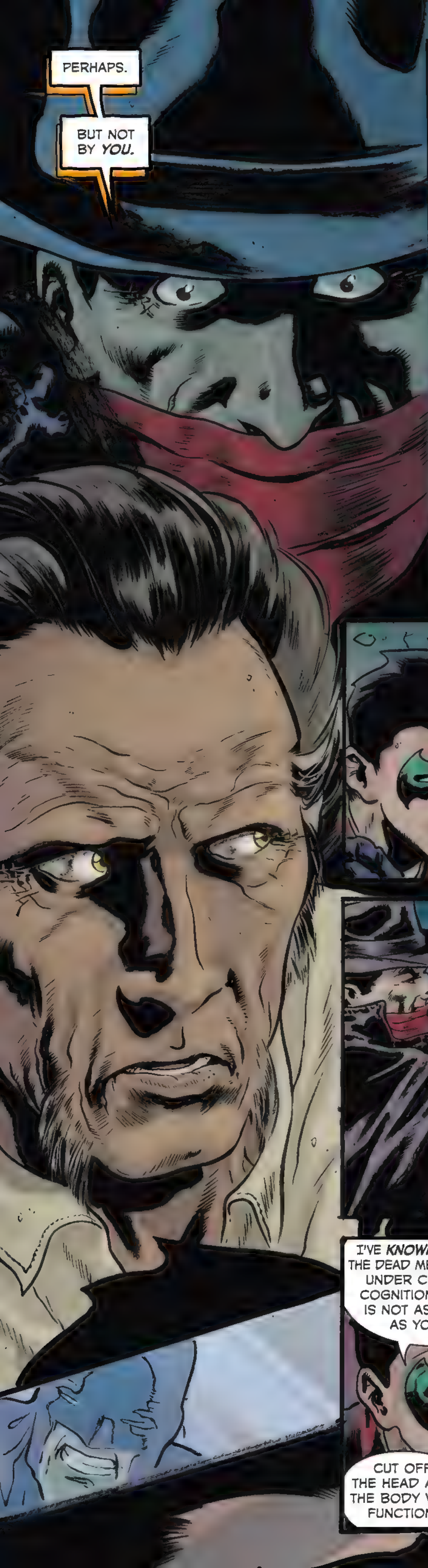
"YOU WOULD DOOM
IT TO SATISFY A
JUSTICE MEASURED
IN **LIFETIMES.**"

"MY JUSTICE IS
MEASURED IN THE RISE
AND FALL OF **WHOLE**
CIVILIZATIONS!"



UNTETHERED,
HUMANITY SPOILS
THIS WORLD BEYOND
REPAIR!

IT MUST BE
CHECKED!



PERHAPS.

BUT NOT
BY YOU.

WEANLING!

WAIT. I'LL
STOP THE
BLEEDING,
DAMIAN.

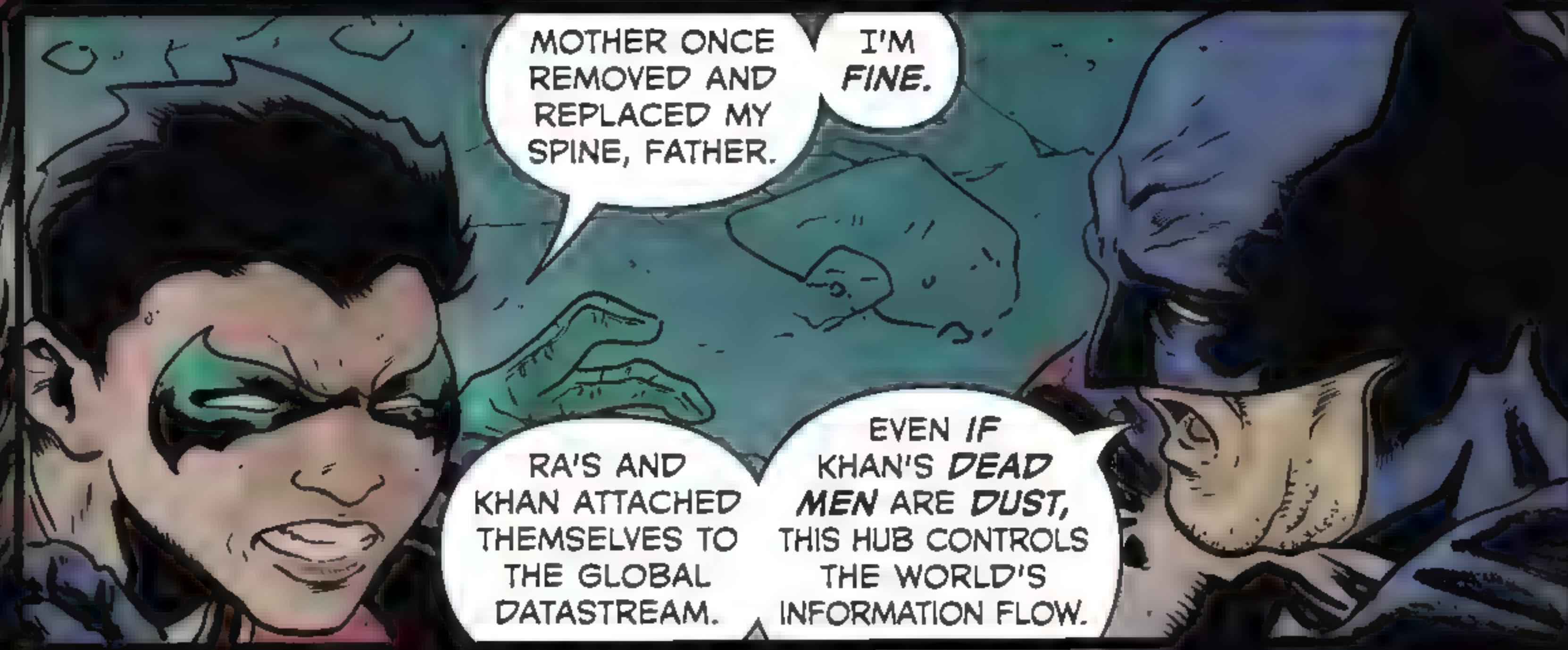


MOTHER ONCE
REMOVED AND
REPLACED MY
SPINE, FATHER.

I'M
FINE.

RA'S AND
KHAN ATTACHED
THEMSELVES TO
THE GLOBAL
DATASTREAM.

EVEN IF
KHAN'S DEAD
MEN ARE DUST,
THIS HUB CONTROLS
THE WORLD'S
INFORMATION FLOW.



WE CAN'T
DESTROY IT. WE
HAVE TO **REPLACE**
IT. MY NEW SYSTEM
ISN'T **READY**--

NO, FATHER.
LISTEN TO ME...THE
SEVEN WERE **TOO**
SUCCESSFUL. THEY
ROSE SO HIGH...THAT
THEY BECAME
REDUNDANT.

I'VE **KNOWN** SINCE I SAW
THE DEAD MEN FUNCTIONING
UNDER CEPHALOPOD
COGNITION...THE BRAIN
IS NOT AS IMPORTANT
AS YOU THINK.

CUT OFF
THE HEAD AND
THE BODY WILL
FUNCTION.

WE WILL
THRIVE. I HAVE
STUDIED IT. I
KNOW IT...

YOU HAVE
TO **TRUST**
ME.

YOU
MUST.





YOU AND KHAN ARE THE SAME! SHORTSIGHTED IDIOTS CHAINED BY MORTAL GRUDGES! YOU THINK YOURSELVES WISE, BUT YOU ARE CHILDREN!

AND SO DO I.

SHUNK

YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE WORLD--

THE KNOWS CITY

...WHERE YOU AND KHAN HOLD THE DANGEROUS IDEAS...AND LET PROGRESS SEEP OUT.

R

"SO THIS IS YOUR BRAIN, GRANDFATHER."

"THE DATA-HOARD YOU KEPT WITH YOUR SECRET FRIEND..."

...THERE.

ALMOST...

DO YOU THINK THIS MATTERS? YOU ARE BUT SECONDS IN MY LIFE!

ONLY I KNOW HUMANITY FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS! ONLY I CAN SEE THE GRAND MOVEMENTS OF GENERATIONS!

YOU COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF, RA'S.

ACTIVATE.

PERSONALLY, I'D PREFER IBN AL XU'FFASCH.

...HAFID AL GHUL.

VOICE RECOGNITION...

ONLY I, UNDYING, CAN LIVE WITHIN THE WORLD AND PROTECT IT FROM ITSELF!

NOT QUITE, GRANDFATHER.

I TOO CAN FEEL THE WORLD MOVING. FROM THIS POINT, I CAN ACCESS EVERYTHING.

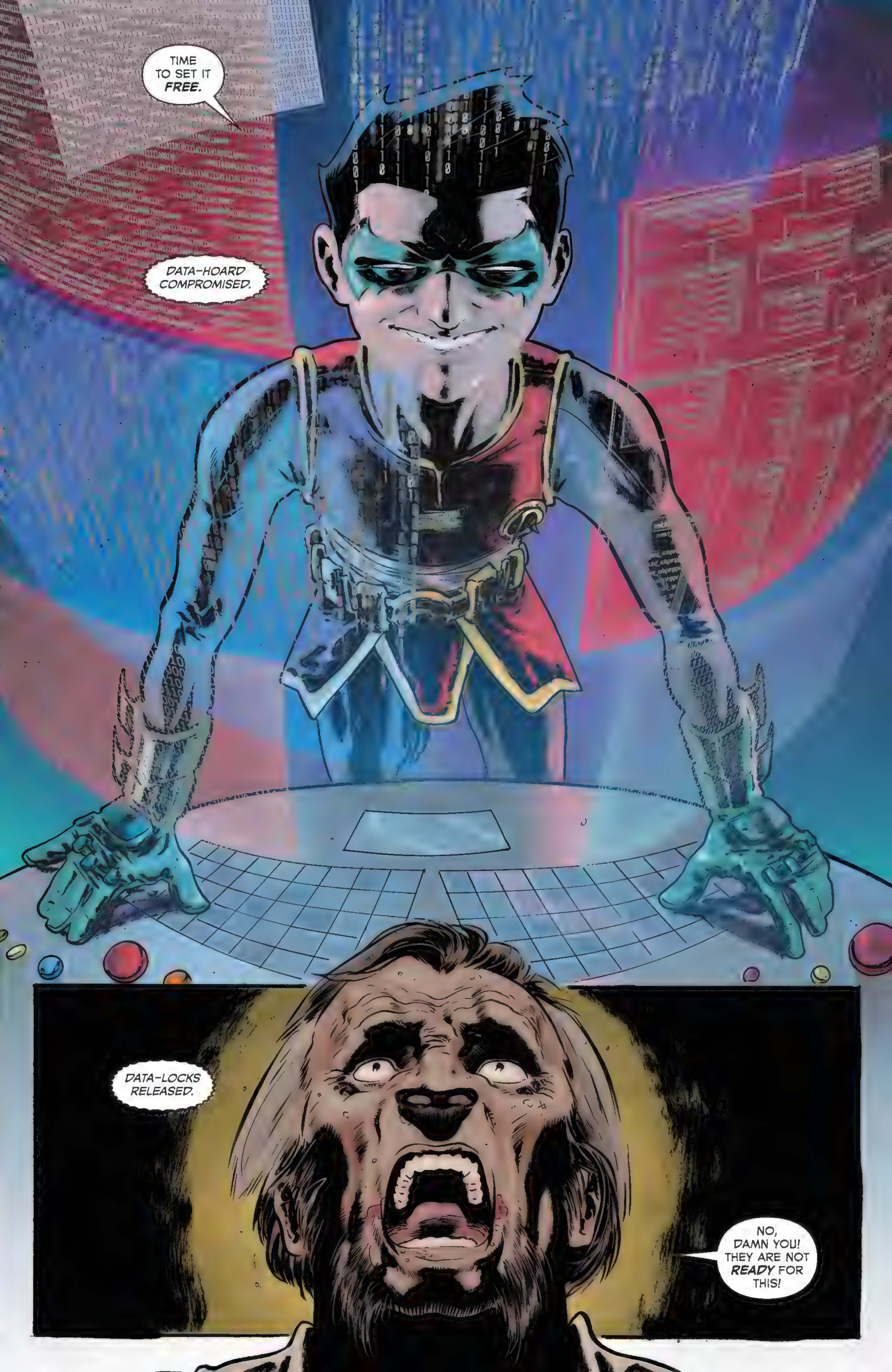
FOR TOO LONG, YOU'VE HELD SOCIETY CHURNING, ANXIOUS... WRITHING AT THE GATE.

TIME
TO SET IT
FREE.

DATA-HOARD
COMPROMISED.

DATA-LOCKS
RELEASED.

NO,
DAMN YOU!
THEY ARE NOT
READY FOR
THIS!

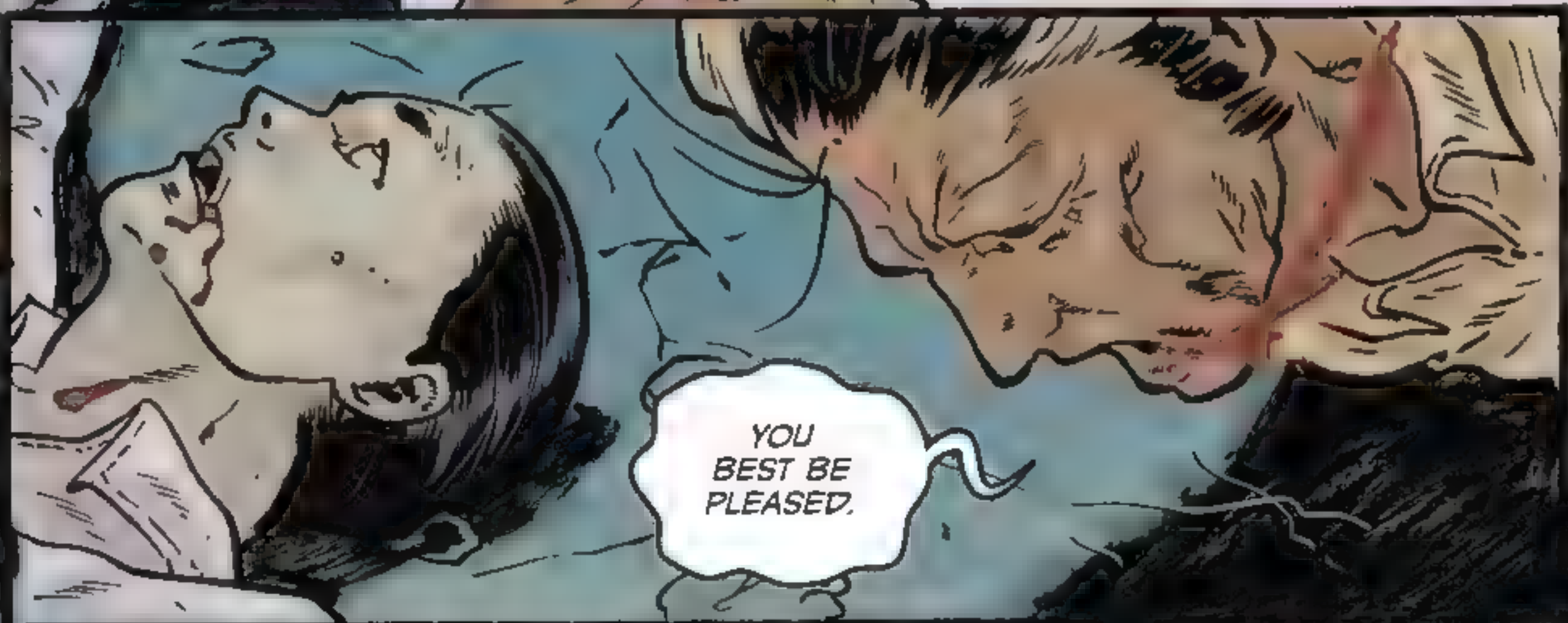




WITHOUT
US THEY
WILL--



KA-THWAM



YOU
BEST BE
PLEASED.



WITHOUT YOU, RA'S
AL GHUL...THIS WORLD
WILL **BLOOM**.

LIKE ANY GOD, YOUR
CREATION HAS A LIFE
OF ITS OWN.

THE WORLD WILL **SURVIVE**
LOSING YOU. IT'S **ALREADY**
DONE SO, DOWN HERE,
BELOW YOUR **NOTICE**.

THE WORLD'S
HEARTBEAT CAN'T
BE HEARD FROM THE
SKY, OLD MAN...YOU
HEAR IT ON THE
STREET.

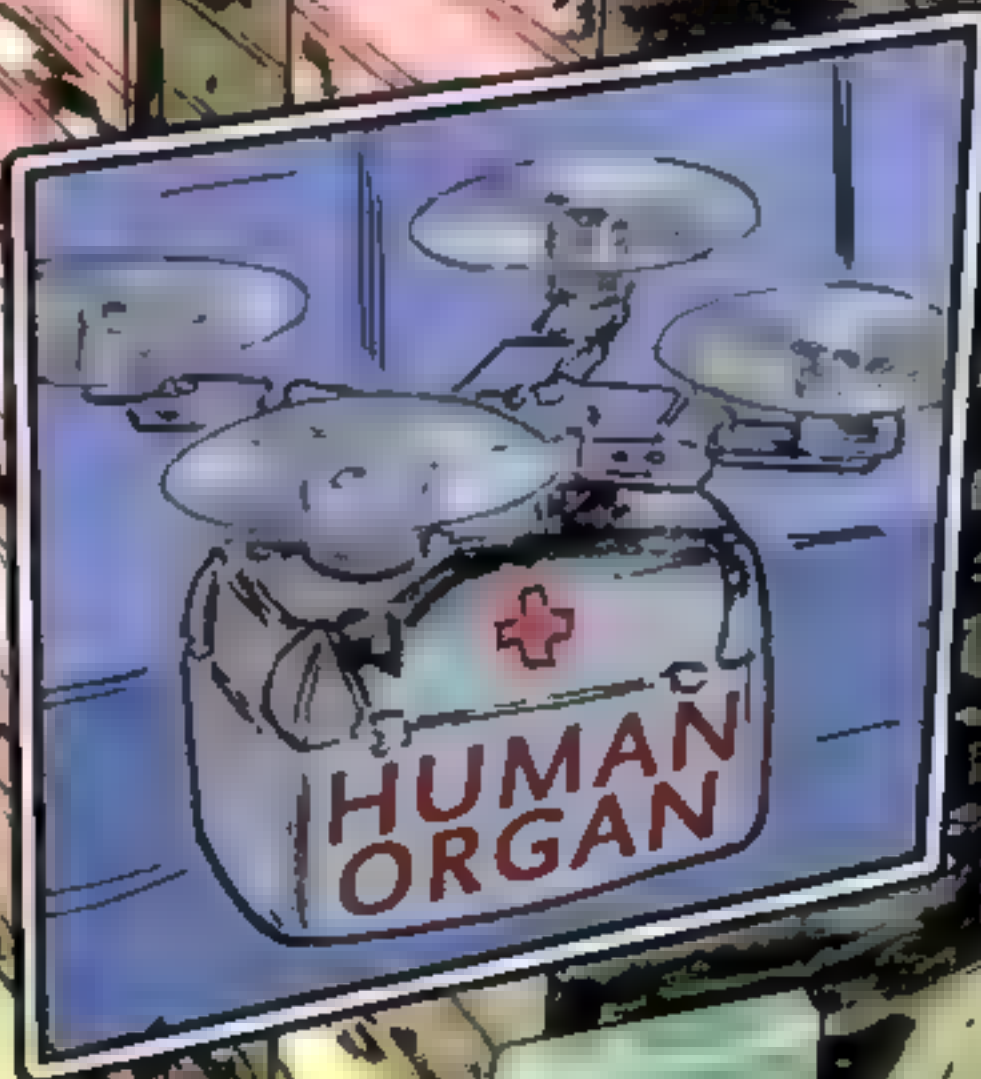
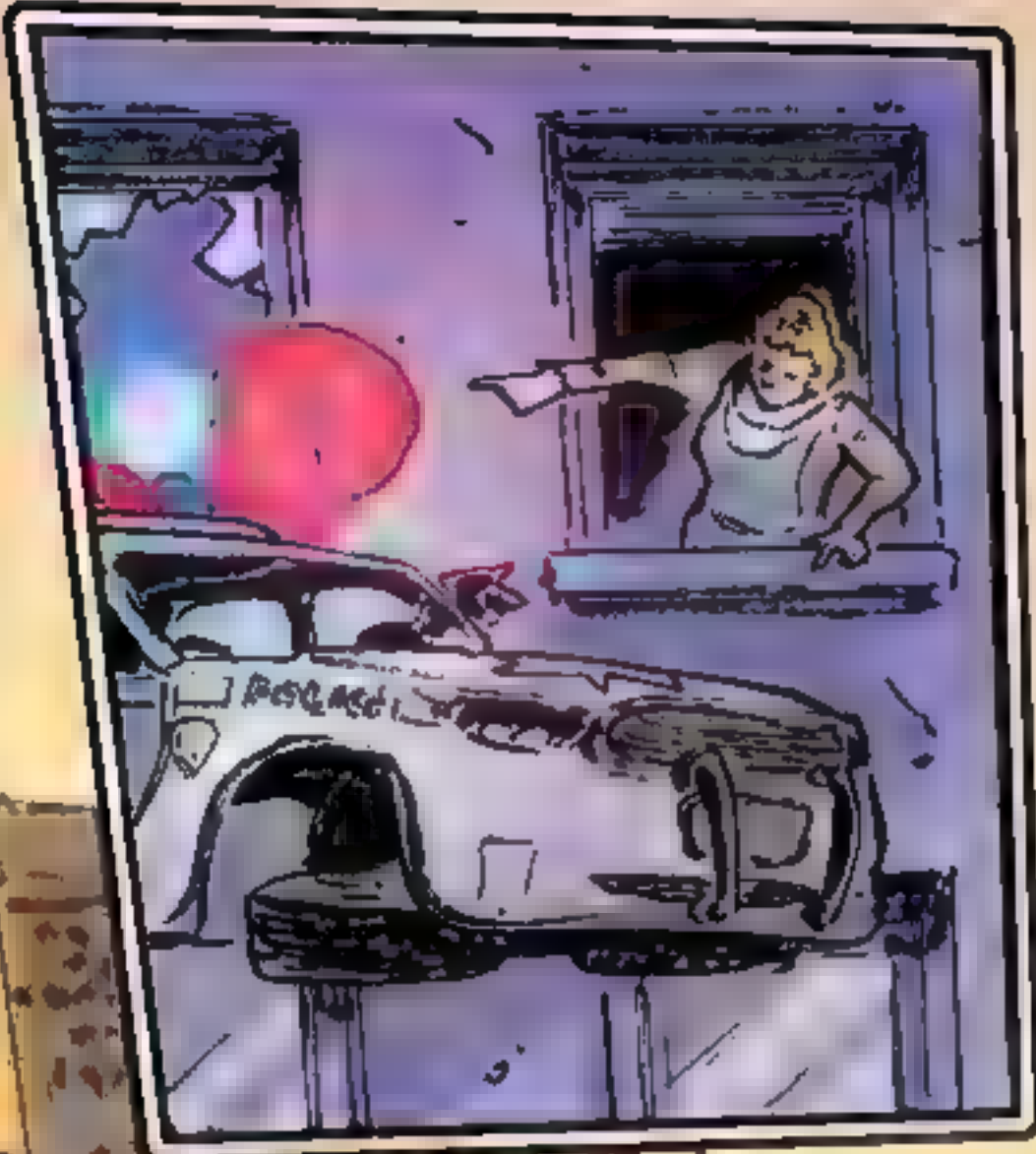
OUR
DOMAIN.

NEW YORK CITY.

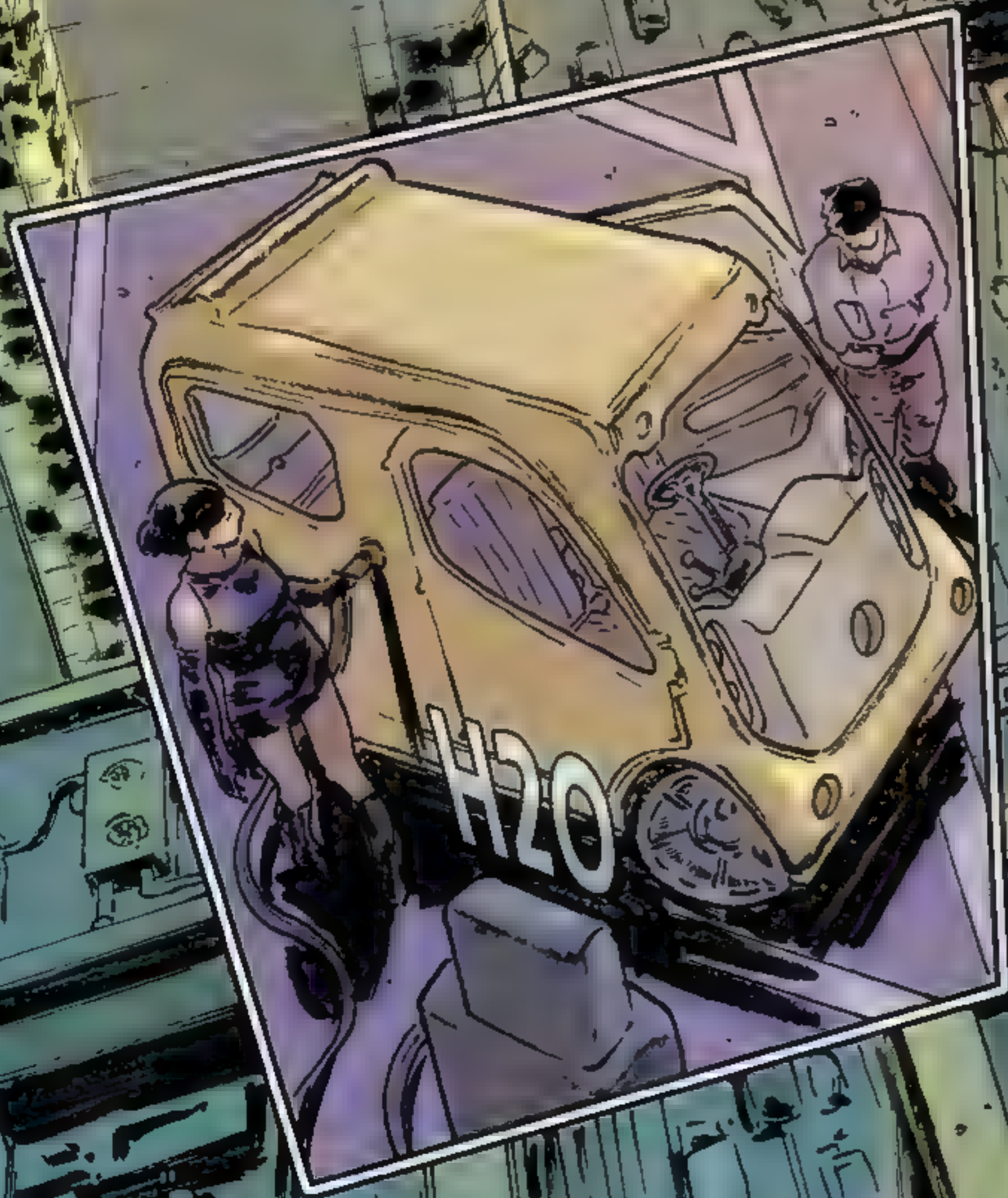
MONTHS LATER.

THE
WORLD HAS
CHANGED.

THE SILENT
SEVEN ARE
GONE.




THERE IS NO
ONE TO HOLD
SOCIETY BACK...



WE WATCH
WITH AWE.





SHIWAN KHAN ONCE
BOASTED THE LIE THAT
BRUCE WAYNE WAS HIS
TO CONTROL.

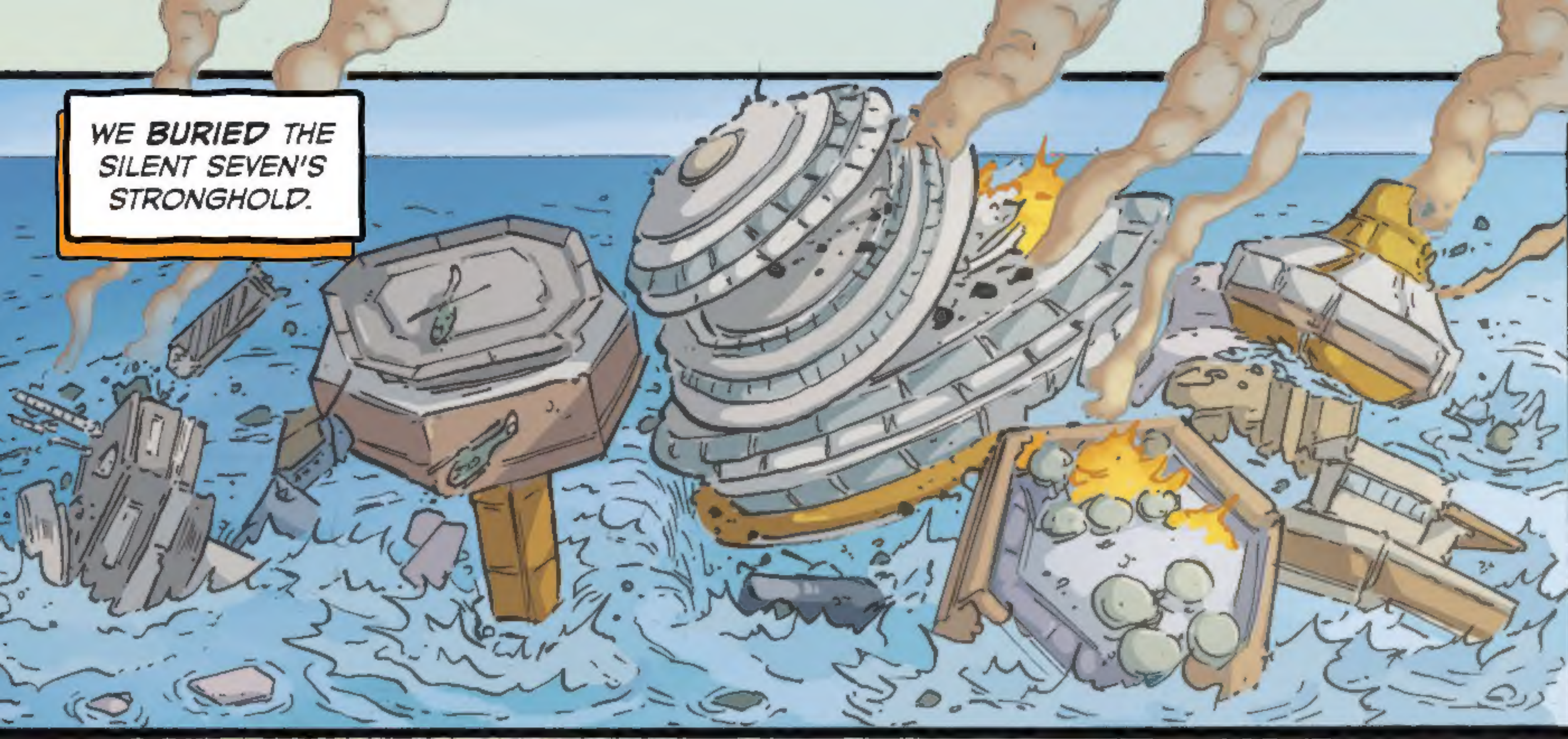
NOW, HIS MIND CLOUDED,
THE GREAT CONQUEROR HE
CLAIMED TO BE IS ONLY AN
INKLING.

CONSIDERED TO A HUMBLE
EXISTENCE, HE LEARNS
HUMILITY UNDER WAYNE'S
WATCHFUL EYE.

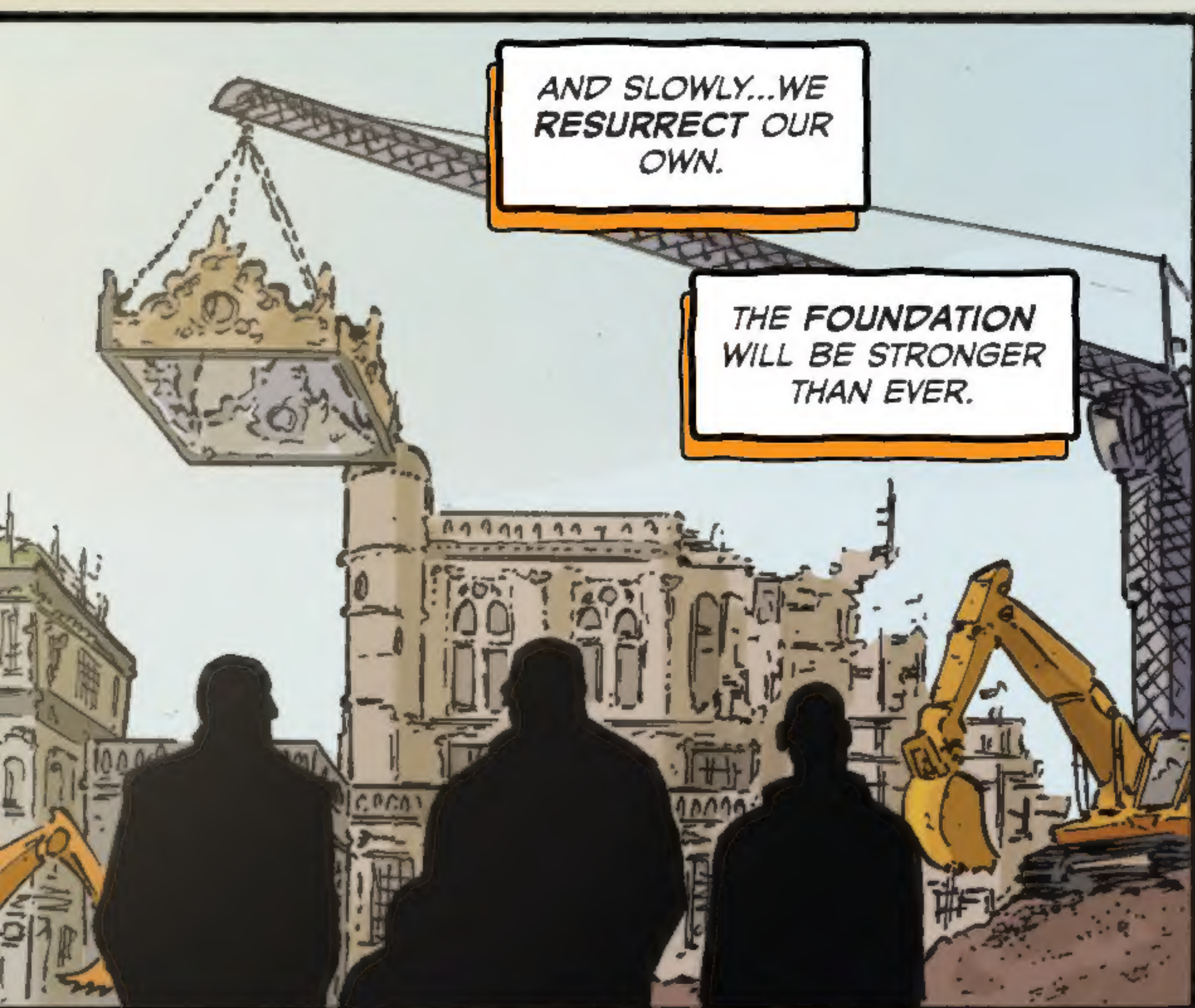
AND RA'S AL GHUL?
THE DEMON'S HEAD AT
LAST FACES MORTALITY.

MAINTAINED BY MY
AGENTS, HE SERVES
SENTENCE WITH HIS
BELOVED LAZARUS
PITS.

HE WILL ONE
DAY DIE OF AGE,
MORTAL...INCHES
FROM SALVATION.



WE BURIED THE
SILENT SEVEN'S
STRONGHOLD.



AND SLOWLY...WE
RESURRECT OUR
OWN.

THE FOUNDATION
WILL BE STRONGER
THAN EVER.

THE SHADOW LONG HAS
HAD AGENTS. I SAVED
THEIR LIVES...AND TOOK
THEM FOR MYSELF.

OF THEM, ONLY MARGO LANE
HAD THE DEFIANCE TO KNOW
ME, DESPITE MYSELF...I WOULD
ALLOW NO OTHERS.

BUT THAT MAN...THAT
SHADOW...IS NO MORE.

I KILLED HIM.
I HAD TO.

THAT MAN COULD NEVER LIVE,
NEVER RAISE HIMSELF FROM
SHAMBA-LA'S GUILT.

I SPENT **DECADES** TRYING TO
DO SO, TRAINED STUDENTS TO
AID ME IN MY WAR.

BRUCE WAYNE ONCE TOLD
ME...A TEACHER HOPES TO BE
SURPASSED BY HIS STUDENTS.

TO BATMAN, THIS
MISSION WAS NEVER
A PUNISHMENT.

AND AT LAST...
THE SHADOW
KNOWS THAT.

AT LAST, THE SHADOW
IS WHOLE, A MORE
DANGEROUS WARRIOR
THAN HE'S YET BEEN...

AND HE DOES
NOT WAR ALONE.

I STAND NOW
WITH ALLIES...
NOT AGENTS.

SOMEWHERE,
MARGO LANE
SMILES...

KNOWING WHEN EVIL
LURKS, IT WILL FIND
NO QUARTER. IT WILL
SHRINK, IT WILL **COWER**.

IT WILL AWAKE
TO A LEGACY
OF JUSTICE...

SHADOW/BATMAN: THE END

STEVE ORLANDO WRITER GIOVANNI TIMPANO ARTIST

FLAVIO
DISPENZA
COLORS

TAYLOR
ESPOSITO
LETTERS

KEVIN
KETNER
ASST. EDITOR

MATT
IDELSON
EDITOR

WHOSE SHADOW
LOOMS GREATER
THAN EVER.





IN STORES NOW: GREEN HORNET #1

Britt Reid Jr., the scion of the Daily Sentinel publishing empire, vanishes during a wild party on his friend's yacht. Meanwhile, crime spikes in the streets of Century City with the mysterious criminal/secret vigilante the Green Hornet absent. It's only a matter of time before SOMEONE puts two and two together, and it's up to Kato, former partner of Britt's father, and his daughter Mulan to protect the city AND the Green Hornet legacy, while finding out what happened to Britt. Amy Chu (Red Sonja, Poison Ivy, KISS) picks up where Kevin Smith left off with an action packed mystery.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VANISHING MAN WRITERS LEAH MOORE AND JOHN REPPION INTERVIEWED!

John and Leah, you've been instrumental in developing Dynamite's Sherlock Holmes, having written two series and spotlighted Holmes' counterpart, Irene Adler, in a Swords of Sorrow tie-in. What keeps bringing you back with fresh ideas to this iconic detective?

Sherlock Holmes is just such a great character and the world he inhabits is such a rich one. Even in the original stories, Arthur Conan Doyle was always hinting at all these other, as yet unrecorded, adventures which he and Dr. Watson had already had. To be able to fill in some of those gaps with our own stories is a huge privilege, but also loads of fun. With our first Dynamite Holmes series, *The Trial of Sherlock Holmes*, we wanted to do something filled with political intrigue, a bit like *A Study in Scarlet*. Then, for *Liverpool Demon*, we wanted to do an out-of-London, *Hound of the Baskervilles*-type story. *The Vanishing Man* is a mystery a bit more in line with the Strand Magazine short stories which were collected in *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. As ever, part of the fun is tying the whole thing into the existing Holmes chronology; working out which of the original stories comes before and after, and exactly what's going in Holmes' life and world at that time.

What, in essence, defines your incarnation of Sherlock Holmes?

We've always tried to stick to Arthur Conan Doyle's version of Holmes as closely as possible. We do have the one added twist in that we accept that the versions of their adventures which Watson writes up for the Strand Magazine are not completely true. Watson naturally simplifies things a bit; changes names and switches dates here and there to avoid incriminating certain people, and giving away too much information to others. Other than that, though, we try to make our series as near to untold tales of Doyle's Great Detective as we can.

So, what motivates Sherlock Holmes? He's a genius and he knows it, but he requires constant stimulation or else he sinks into stagnation. He can read other people incredibly well – deducing where they're from, where they've been, who they were with, and all kinds of other things from minute cues which seem obvious to him, but are all but invisible to the rest of the world. When it comes to how he himself appears to others, however, he seems to have a bit of a blind spot. His inclination is towards good rather than evil, but – whether he admits it openly or not – he picks and chooses his cases as much by their level of interest and amusement to himself as he does their morality.

Holmes has had a resurgence in popularity across all media in recent years -- Elementary and the BBC's Sherlock on television; and films starring Robert Downey Jr. films, Ian McKellan, and Will Ferrell. What are your thoughts on comic books as the medium for storytelling for the character?

Right from when the first stories were being published, they were always accompanied by Sidney Paget's illustrations, so you could argue that Sherlock Holmes has been a drawn character much longer than he's been one on screen, or even stage. Comics is great medium for a mystery because we can include those clues which Holmes picks up on right in the panels where he must have seen them. Then, when he talks about having spotted a footprint or whatever later on, the reader can flip back to that page and see for themselves that it was there the whole time, they just didn't pick up on it. Those things generally aren't there in Doyle's stories because that's hard to do in prose, and if they are included in the films and TV shows people generally aren't going to rewind to check that the flashback matches the earlier scene. Thanks to the magic of comics though, you can lay it all out there and still have a mystery that works. We can all play along with Holmes and see if we can see what he sees in even the most innocent seeming scene.

How would you describe the setting of Holmes' late 1800s London, and how it impacts and informs your storytelling?

19th Century London is a wonderful setting; a fantastic playground for writers and artists with all the period details, the costumes, the architecture. Who doesn't love a mystery set in foggy old Victorian London, with murder by gas-light and blood on the cobblestones? We've come back to the era time and time again throughout our careers, and I think it's the fact that this era is when the old and the new meet so clearly; you can see the old world and the modern world at the same time, and everything is just as alien as it is relatable. Holmes' natural habitat is late 19th century London -- it's where and when he does what he does best.

What can you tell us about the villainy that Holmes faces in The Vanishing Man?

At the beginning of the series, Holmes is in a bit of a slump. There are plenty of potential cases out there, but there's nothing that really grabs his attention until he's presented with the disappearance of a man named Michael Williams. This disappearance, while it might seem trivial to many, has something which piques the Great Detective's interest. Then, not only do his investigations bring Holmes into the firing line of some new villains, they also threaten to attract the attention of a powerful enemy even he was not aware he already had.

Sherlock Holmes: The Vanishing Man #1 is available in stores and digitally May 2018.